Chapter 47
Look for My Daddy

REALLY?

WANNA HELP ME?

I HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO DO...

WHY DO YOU INSIST ON COMING WITH ME EVERYWHERE?

MYCITY

FF

NOT AT ALL...

...

SFX: FOOTSTEPS

...

SFX: PFFT

...

WELL, NO CUSTOMERS TODAY EITHER... LET'S GO.

.....

!!

XYZ
0903721XXXX

ERH...

AH...

HMM?

R-RYO-PAPA!

NO... NOTHING

...

DON'T STAY OUT TOO LATE!

AH-SHAN?

I HAVE SOME ERRANDS TO RUN! DON'T WAIT UP FOR ME!

STARBACCHUS COFFEE

領収書
スターバックス(株)
新宿タワービル店

XYZ
09c372

...

SFX: PFFT

OR THAT THEY'LL BE HERE TODAY.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE CUSTOMER ALWAYS COMES HERE...

IT'S HERE? THE XYZ NOTE WAS WRITTEN ON A RECEIPT FROM THIS COFFEE SHOP.

HELLO. MAY I TAKE YOUR ORDER?

OH... ONE COFFEE, PLEASE.

HOW ABOUT TODAY'S SPECIAL? IT'S A CAPPUCINO.

OR, IF YOU WANT AN EXPRESSO, WE HAVE MANY CHOICES: EXPRESSO MACCIATO, EXPRESSO CON PANNA, EXPRESSO-

J-JUST CAPPU-CINO!

OKAY, WHAT SIZE?

I, UH... REGULAR?

WE HAVE THREE SIZES: SHORT, TALL AND GRANDE.

SHORT? GRANDE?

SHE'LL HAVE A TALL, PLEASE.

ALRIGHT, MISS.

HEY, ARE YOU GONNA CAMP HERE ALL DAY? 'CAUSE THERE'S A LINE BACKING UP BEHIND YOU.

A GRANDE CARAMEL FRAPPUCINO, A MORTADELLA BRIOCHE SANDWICH AND A GENOVA SHRIMP WRAP, PLEASE.

GO BACK TO YOUR CAVE.

YOU CAN'T EVEN ORDER AT STARBACCUS? SO UNCOOL.

IT WOULD BE BEST TO CALL THIS NUMBER.

XYZ 0903

Bring

Piripiri... Piripiri...

CALL: PUBLIC PHONE

DIGITAL

D2091

...

Piripiri... Piripiri...

'ELLO?

!!

THIS GIRL!?

IF THIS IS A PRANK, I'M HANGING UP!

BIP

WHO IS THIS? SAY SOME-THING!

SFX: AH!

AH...

...

OOH, WHAT LOVELY STICKERS. AND SUCH A NICE CELL PHONE, TOO.

...

SFX: GRIN, GRIN

...

COULD I TAKE A LOOK AT IT? I'LL GIVE YOU ALL THESE STICKERS IN RETURN.

SUCH SAD EYES...

EVEN FOR A GIRL SO YOUNG...

SHOW IT TO ME!!

!!

SFX: SHWUP

GET LOST!

SFX: CLICK

SFX: GRAB!

SFX: FWEEEEE!

SFX: SHWA

GAH!

SFX: FWEEE

WHA? H-HEY YOU...!

...

LOSER.

...

OH! IT'S...

A-ARE YOU... OKAY?

.....

...

HUH? NO...

SO... YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A CELL PHONE?

I MEAN, CITY HUNTER CALLING FROM A PUBLIC PHONE? SO UNCOOL.

...?

...

O-OF COURSE I AM!

AND YOU'RE A GIRL. ARE YOU REALLY THE ONE?

SFX: GULP

SFX: HUMMING

...

DON'T YOU KNOW? YOU DRINK THROUGH THE HOLE.

YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO REMOVE THE LID.

I'M NEW IN TOWN.

IT'S JUST THAT...

I KNEW IT. YOU *ARE* A FAKE. CITY HUNTER, A GIRL NOT KNOWING THE CITY OR STARBACCUS? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.

YOU'RE MISTAKEN. I AM CITY HUNTER.

...

...

SIPP

SFX: ZUM!

SHE IS CITY HUNTER!

ドン!!

?

SFX: SLAM

I CAN PROVE I'M CITY HUNTER! COME WITH ME!

...

HUH?

TO BE MORE ACCURATE, CITY HUNTER IS HER FATHER.

BUT HER COMBAT SKILLS ARE SIMILAR TO HIS AND SHE IS MORE RELIABLE, SO THERE'S NO CONTEST!

...

BELIEVE ME NOW?

R-REALLY?

YES!

SFX: ZU-UM

NO IDEA... MAYBE SHE'S TAKING AN INTEREST IN RYO'S WORK.

WHAT THE HELL IS SHANIN PLAYING AT?

Y-YEAH!

LIKE I'M GONNA ARGUE WITH A GUY THAT BIG?

NO! THAT'S NOT IT...

YOU WANTED ME TO PROTECT YOU FROM THAT BAD MAN. I SHOULD HAVE CAUGHT HIM.

THE MISSION... WAS IT THAT MAN FROM BEFORE?

I... FAILED.

MOMMY'S BEEN PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEED FOR TOO LONG. I WANT HER TO STOP.

...

BUT DADDY'S VERY GOOD AT HIDING... SHE CAN'T FIND HIM.

MOMMY'S BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM FOR YEARS...

WITH MY DADDY...

PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK... WITH WHO?

!?

I WANT TO HELP HER, BUT I DON'T KNOW DADDY'S FACE BECAUSE THEY WERE PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK BEFORE I WAS BORN...

MOMMY ALWAYS ACTS LIKE EVERY-THING'S OKAY... BUT AT NIGHT, SHE CRIES WHEN SHE'S ALONE... I'M SURE SHE'S SAD BECAUSE SHE CAN'T FIND MY DADDY.

...

YOU WANT ME TO FIND YOUR DAD?

SFX: FWUP

HIDE-AND-SEEK?

HER MOM PROBABLY MADE THAT UP TO AVOID EXPLAINING THAT HER DAD RAN OFF.

TELL ME EVERY-THING.

NO... BUT MOMMY DESCRIBED HIM TO ME.

DO YOU HAVE A PICTURE?

HE'S CALLED 'SHINJUKO'S ONE-NIGHT WOLF' AND HIS FAVORITE WORD IS BONER*.

HE'S FORTY, BUT ACTS MUCH YOUNGER... HIS HAIR'S A MESS, HE'S HANDSOME AND HAS A CHILDISH NATURE.

LET'S SEE... HE'S TALL... MUSCULAR... ALWAYS WEARS THE SAME JACKET OVER THE SAME T-SHIRT...

ERH...

SFX: POF

SFX: POF

SFX: PO-OF

HELLO-OO, UMI-DEAR!

SFX: PING

...

HUH?

M-MAYBE HER FATHER IS CLOSER THAN WE THINK?

*NOTE: NOKKORI = LIT. PITCHING A TENT

...

WHA?

IT'S MY DADDY!!

YOU'RE JUST LIKE MOMMY SAID!

ANY IDEAS, RYO-DEAR?

ZUH?

SFX: ZUM

BUH?

RYO-PAPA. I HAVE A LITTLE SISTER?

SFX: ZUM

THIS GUY... ROTTEN TO THE CORE.

ANY IDEAS? I HAVE SO MANY IT MAKES IT HARD TO SORT THEM ALL OUT. BESIDES, THIS HAS HAPPENED MANY TIMES BEFORE.

WOW

HA HA! HA! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

GUH?

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Chapter 48
Portrait of a Father

IT'S TERRIFIC!

YOU SOLVED YOUR CASE THE SAME DAY YOU GOT IT! COME ON! CELEBRATE!

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR FIRST CASE!

...

HEY! HEY, DADDY! WHY WERE YOU PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK WITH MOMMY?

...

YOU LOOK JUST LIKE YOUR MOMMY! THAT'S HOW I KNEW IT WAS YOU!

ERH, YEAH!

WHERE WERE YOU, DADDY?

AND YOU RECOGNIZED TANYA RIGHT AWAY!?

DO I LOOK LIKE MOMMY?

ERH, WELL... IT'S A GROWN-UP BUSINESS...

...

ERH, YEAH... YOU SURE DID...

TANYA FOUND YOU BEFORE MOMMY DID!

COME HOME! MOMMY JUST CRIES ALL THE TIME!

SFX: GLARE
SFX: SWISH

SFX: AH!

IF HE DOESN'T KNOW, I DUNNO HOW I WOULD. SO MANY POSSI-BILITIES...

HA HA! IS SHE REALLY MR SAEBA'S DAUGHTER?

BUT... SEEING THEM LIKE THIS, THEY REALLY LOOK LIKE FATHER AND DAUGHTER.

SFX: TSS

...

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT'S STRANGE...

USUALLY, KAORI'S PERSONALITY WOULD TAKE OVER AND WOULD ALMOST KILL RYO.

HUH?

I'M JUST SURPRISED THAT SHANIN CAN WATCH THEM WITHOUT THAT MURDEROUS AURA.

DAD'S... DAY... AT YOUR SCHOOL?

父親参観に
のお知ら

SFX: FLIP

IN TIME FOR THIS! IT'S NEXT SATURDAY!

IN TIME? IN TIME FOR WHAT?

I'M SO HAPPY I FOUND YOU IN TIME!

SFX: RUSTLE

SFX: GRIN

I GOTTA GO POTTY.

UH-HUH...

YOU'LL BE THERE, RIGHT?

...

Skritch Skratch

...

OUP! THERE'S THE MURDEROUS AURA!

SFX: GLARE

HEH HEH HEH...

EH...

THEN WHY DON'T YOU TELL HER?

I CAN'T DO THAT...

YOU SAW HOW HAPPY SHE WAS.

...

SHE'S PROBABLY NOT MY DAUGHTER.

...

THERE'S A WAITRESS AT CLUB CARNIVAL IN SECTOR ONE. AND SHE BEARS QUITE A RESEMBLANCE TO THIS BRAT. IT'S PROBABLY HER.

AH! KAORI MODE!!

TELL ME YOU DIDN'T HAVE A KID WITH THIS WOMAN, RYO!!

TANYA... THAT'S A RUSSIAN NAME...

ANY IDEA WHO IT MIGHT BE?

IF WE WANT TO FIND OUT IF I'M THE GIRL'S FATHER, I'LL HAVE TO MEET HER MOTHER...

DADDY!

SFX: SCREAM

...

N-NO! DON'T SAY THAT! I WON'T GO ANYWHERE!

I WAS SO SCARED! I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONE AGAIN!

SFX: HUG

MOMMY WILL BE SO HAPPY WHEN I TAKE YOU TO MEET HER!

DURING DAD'S DAY AT SCHOOL, WE ALL GET TO DRAW A PICTURE OF OUR DADDY'S.

...

WHY ARE YOU HIDING THIS DRAWING, NUMBER 27?

REALLY? I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT.

IT'LL BE THE FIRST TIME THAT TANYA DREW HER DADDY! TANYA'S REALLY GOOD AT DRAWING!

YEP! I DRAW REALLY WELL!

I-I COULDN'T REMEMBER.. MOM AND DAD'S FACE.

I... THOUGHT I MIGHT REMEMBER.. IF I DREW THEM..

YOU DON'T NEED TO REMEMBER THEM!!

Mommy

Daddy

...

NUMBER 27!

... YES, SIR...

ALL YOUR LOYALTY MUST BE DEVOTED TO THE ORGANIZATION, YOUR ONLY PARENT! UNDERSTOOD!?

SIR, YES SIR!!

FORGET THE NAMES OF YOUR BROTHERS, YOUR SISTERS! YOU WILL NOT SURVIVE HERE WITH SUCH RIDICULOUS THOUGHTS!

VERY WELL. NOW... *SHOOT THEM!*

...

SHOOT THEM!!

Mommy

Daddy

SFX: KLIK

SFX: BLAM! BLAM!

...

Mommy

Daddy

...

AT THE BAR!? THAT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA...

...

MOMMY'S AWAKE NOW, SO SHE'LL BE AT THE BAR.

WHAT!? WE'RE NOT GOING TO THE HOUSE?

SFX: HNN?

HUH...?

YOUR TAB...?

WHY?

WHY?? HEH HEH... I.. UH, DIDN'T PAY MY TAB. THAT'S WHY I CAN'T GO THERE...

I DON'T SPEND ALL THE LUNCH MONEY MOMMY GIVES ME, SO I HAVE SOME SAVINGS!

SFX: RUSTLE

HUH? BUH...! Y-YEAH... THAT WAS IT!

I GET IT! THAT'S WHY YOU WERE PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK!

THEN TANYA WILL PAY IT FOR YOU!

I WANTED TO USE IT TO BUY A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR MOMMY.

AND ALSO... TO GET ONE FOR YOU, DADDY!

HERE! THIS IS YOUR SHARE! YOU CAN USE IT ALL!

TANYA...

TANYA... YOU! ARE SO ADORABLE.

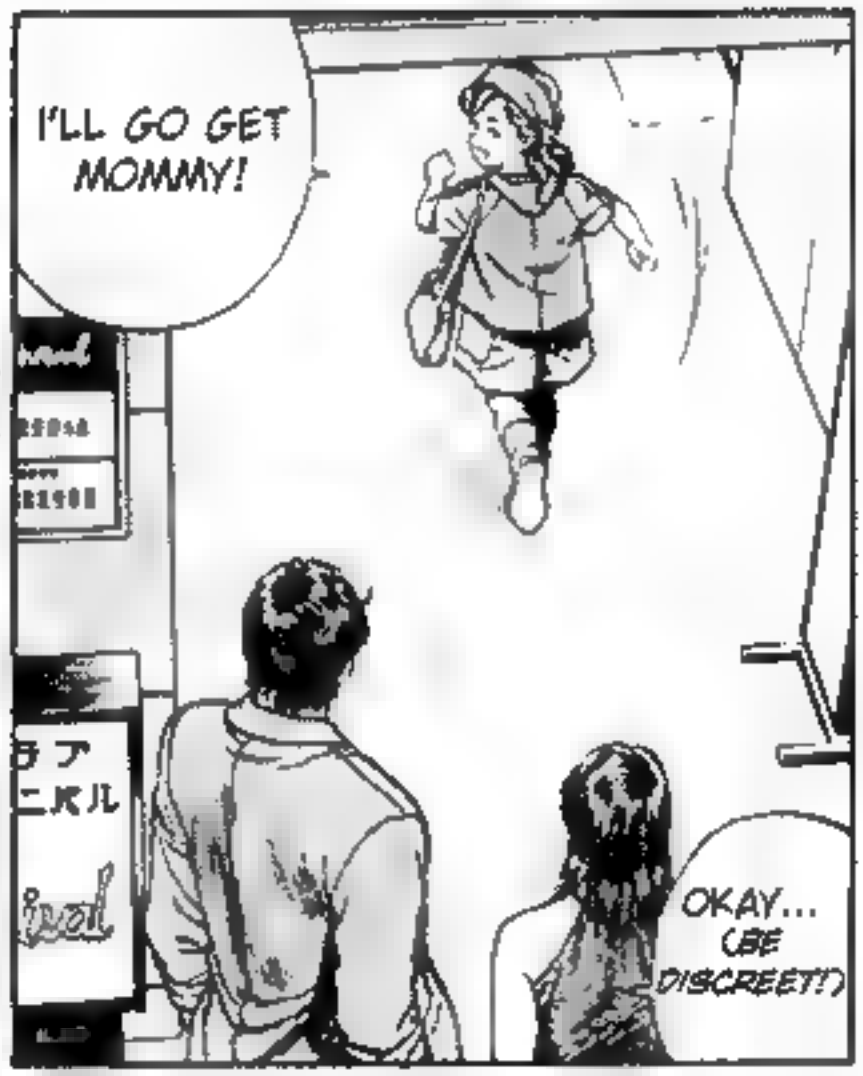
...

SFX: HUG

HUH?

UH... MISS?

...


I'LL GO GET MOMMY!
OKAY... (BE DISCREET!)

NO,NO! I'LL WAIT RIGHT HERE.
DON'T GO AWAY, NOW!

RYO-PAPA...

ﾊｧ...

SFX: SIGH.

CAN I... KEEP THIS JOB?

BUT WHEN WE TAKE A JOB, WE SEE IT THROUGH TO THE END. THAT'S OUR MOTTO!

SFX: PFF

I KNOW IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO SAY THIS...

BUT...

R-RIGHT!

(YOU BROUGHT THAT UP ON PURPOSE!)

AND YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THE AFTER-SALES DEPARTMENT.

WELL... WE DON'T HAVE TO BRING THEM INTO THIS...

IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT I HAVE MORE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN SHINJUKU.

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Chapter 49: Tanya's True Smile

マイルドバンチ

club クラブ カーニバル Carnival

club クラブ カーニバル Carnival

インターネットカフェ

I DIDN'T KNOW IRINA HAD A DAUGHTER!

SHE NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT IT... (RYO-DEAR IS SAD!)

WELL, SHE LOOKS LIKE TANYA...

WHAT IS SHE LIKE?

男性専

TANYA'S MOTHER, IRINA...

SFX: AHEM!

IF YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR MISSION, YOU SHOULD BE GATHERING INFORMATION ON TANYA'S FATHER INSTEAD OF HANGING AROUND WITH ME...

SAY... ARE YOU SURE IT'S A GOOD IDEA FOR YOU TO STAY WITH ME?

THAT'S WHY I CAME.

FAT AND *OLD!* YOU WOULDN'T KNOW SHE'S A HOSTESS BY LOOKING AT HER! HA HA...

I-I MEAN, SHE USED TO LOOK LIKE TANYA, BEFORE SHE GOT FAT!

I'M GETTING OLDER, SO THE PHYSICAL PART WILL BE LEFT TO YOU. I'LL GATHER THE INFORMATION. FROM NOW ON, WE'LL DO IT THAT WAY.

NO, NO! LET ME EXPLAIN. YOU LET ME HANDLE THIS. WE HAVE TO SHARE THE WORK!

I'LL ASK TANYA'S MOTHER TO DESCRIBE THE FATHER TO ME.

...?

OFF YOU GO, NOW! QUICKLY! GO GO GO!

I'LL CONTACT YOU ONCE I KNOW MORE!

DADDY! I BROUGHT MOMMY!

SFX: PHEW!

DADDY!

SEE, MOMMY? IT'S DADDY! TANYA DID FIND HIM!

DADDY DID COME BACK!

...

...

...

HI, IRINA.

SOMETHING PRECIOUS!? I'LL GO RIGHT AWAY!

TANYA, COULD YOU GO GET MOMMY'S PURSE? I HAVE SOMETHING FOR DADDY IN IT.

...

IT'S NOT NICE, IRINA. ASKING A KID TO HELP YOU? THAT'S AGAINST THE HIDE-AND-SEEK RULES.

SFX: AH!

MISTER SAEBA...

SFX: WHAM!!

HEAVEN

SO... OLD AND FAT, HUH RYO?

YOU... DIDN'T LEAVE YET?

SFX: GULP

SFX: HMM?

...!

W-WHY DID I COME BACK? AND WHY DID SEEING TANYA'S MOTHER MAKE ME MAD?

EH?

K...

SFX: SWUP

BAD NEWS FOR ME...

SFX: CRUNCH

I THOUGHT SO. SHE INHERITED KAORI'S PERSONALITY AND INTUITION.

PFF... OW...

SFX: DEBRIS FALLING

Zzz...

TANYA WAS ALWAYS ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT HER FATHER. YOU WERE COMING IN HERE ALL THE TIME, SO I JUST STARTED DESCRIBING YOU TO HER...

WELL...

OH, MY HEAD...

I'M SORRY, MR SAEBA.

GRR...

オホ！

オホ！...

SFX: KOFF! KOFF!

SO WHY DON'T WE JUST MAKE IT OFFICIAL?

IT DOESN'T MATTER! RYO-DEAR FEELS LIKE HE BECAME YOUR HUSBAND, IRINA!

I'M HIS *DAUGHTER!*

OH... WELL... YOU KNOW... HER NAME IS SHANIN... SHE'S... UH...

SO, WHO IS THIS YOUNG GIRL?

...

SEE? SEE? DIDN'T I TELL YOU I WASN'T THE FATHER?

...

N-NO, SHE'S ONLY 15! REALLY!

OH! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD SUCH AN OLD DAUGHTER!

KATSUMI... MY FIANCE DISAPPEARED FOR BOTH OUR SAKES.

I... USED TO BE ENGAGED...

WHAT ABOUT YOU? HAVE YOU BEEN MARRIED?

WELL...

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, IT WAS SIX YEARS AGO. A POLITICIAN'S PERSONAL SECRETARY WAS ACCUSED OF EMBEZZLING FUNDS ASSIGNED FOR THE R COUNTRY HUMANITARIAN AID AND HE FLED.

...

KARA-HASHI...

THAT RINGS A BELL.

KATSUMI KARAHASHI.

WHAT'S HIS FAMILY NAME?

HE IS *NOT* A CRIMINAL!

HE WOULD OFTEN COME HERE FOR BUSINESS MEETINGS. THAT'S HOW WE ENDED UP FALLING IN LOVE.

THE MAN HE USED TO WORK FOR... THE DEPUTY TADAOMI KISHIMOTO...

HE WAS USED. THAT'S ALL.

THAT MAN IS TRULY CORRUPT.

IT'S PITIFUL, REALLY...

T. KISHIMOTO

I-I'M SORRY, SIR.

YOU CAN'T EVEN STEAL A LITTLE GIRL'S CELL PHONE?

I COULDN'T HAVE GUESSED THAT SHE HAD A WHISTLE FOR PROTECTION.

BUT...

YES, SIR. SORRY, SIR.

I HAVE NO PATIENCE FOR YOUR EXCUSES. OUT!

IF IT'S NOT KURAHASHI, IT'S THIS FOOL. I'M SURROUNDED BY IDIOTS...

SOON, WE'LL HAVE TO GET RID OF HIM, TOO.

SFX: DOOR SLAMMING

OF COURSE, SIR...

NOW THAT WE'VE PICKED UP THIS FAILURE'S TRAIL, I'D LIKE TO END THIS CASE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

I WAS CERTAIN WE COULD GET KURAHASHI'S LOCATION FROM HIS DAUGHTER'S CELL PHONE, BUT...

PFF! WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED THAT STICK-IN-THE-MUD HAD A WIFE AND KID? HOW CUTE...

FORGET ABOUT THE SOFT SOAP.

SFX: PUFF PUFF

USE THEM AS YOU WISH, BUT I WANT RESULTS.

THE LIVES OF ONE OR TWO GIRLS ARE UNIMPORTANT.

SFX: STAB!

KATSUMI WAS CONSUMED BY DOUBT.

BUT...

TO DENOUNCE KISHIMOTO WITH THE HELP OF A COLLEAGUE.

HIS COLLEAGUE AND THE JOURNALIST WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO EXPOSE THE SCANDAL WERE MURDERED IN THE PLACE THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET.

SO HE DECIDED...

KISHIMOTO DID A LOT FOR HIM, BUT HE COULDN'T BEAR TO BE AN ACCOMPLICE TO THE THEFT OF PUBLIC MONEY.

IN OTHER WORDS... THE DEPUTY KNEW, DIDN'T HE?

KISHIMOTO'S SCHEMES WERE ABOUT TO BE EXPOSED BY THE MEDIA, SO HE USED IT. HE PLACED THE BLAME FOR THE CRIME ON KATSUMI'S SHOULDERS...

KATSUMI WAS SCARED THAT THE ASSASSINS WOULD TRY TO KILL ME, TOO. I WAS PREGNANT AT THE TIME... SO HE DECIDED TO DISAPPEAR...

SHE WANTS A FATHER.

SHE NEVER LET IT SHOW, BUT DEEP DOWN...

DADDY...

...

I DON'T WANT TO BOTHER YOU ANYMORE... IT'S JUST TOO DANGEROUS...

NO... IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE.

BUT THIS JOB ISN'T JUST ABOUT FINDING HER FATHER.

IMPOSS-IBLE!!

WHEN TANYA WAKES UP, I'LL TELL HER THE TRUTH. THEN...

HEH... YEAH...

OUR MOTTO IS TO ALWAYS FINISH THE JOB AND TAKE CARE OF THE POST-SERVICE DEPARTMENT! RIGHT, RYO-PAPA?

THEN IT'S POSSIBLE THAT I HAVE A CHANCE TO GET INTIMATE WITH IRINA!! ♡

BUT... TANYA ALREADY THINKS OF ME AS HER DAD... IF IT STAYS THAT WAY...

WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT!?

HOW DOES SHE DO THAT?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT I'M SURE YOU WERE THINKING SOMETHING INAPPROPRIATE.

SFX: KRAK!

BUT WHEN THIS IS OVER, YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY US.

PAY YOU...?

YES, PAY! IF YOU COULD TAKE CARE OF MY TAB HERE... I COULD COME BACK TO THIS BAR.

ER...OKAY. HOW MUCH WOULD IT COST ME?

THIS LITTLE GIRL... SHE'S JUST LIKE ME!

...

I HAVE SEEN TANYA'S TRUE SMILE. I WANT TO SEE THAT SMILE WHEN HER FATHER HOLDS HER IN HIS ARMS.

WHAT, NOW? HEY! SH- SHANIN!

ALRIGHT. I'M GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THIS NOW.

ZUH? NUH?

HI HI!

I'M GLAD YOU DECIDED TO STOP BY. YOUR TAB IS JUST SLIGHTLY OVER ONE MILLION YEN!

BOSS! HEH... HEH HEH...

!!

SFX: GRAB

WELL, IF IT ISN'T RYO SAEBA! LONG TIME, NO SEE!

SFX: STEP

TANYA'S TRUE SMILE...

THAT SHALL BE MY REWARD...

DADDY...

UH.. WRONG NUMBER.

MR CHEN! FOR PITY'S SAKE, LEND ME A MILLION YEN!

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Chapter 50
Finishing the Shooting Preparations

...

!!!

SINCE WHEN DOES AH-SHAN KNOW WHERE I HIDE MY RIFLES?

...

BANG...!

SFX: KA-KLICK

BULLETPROOF GLASS...

SFX: SQUEEZE

...

YOU THINK SHE INTENDS TO TAKE OUT KISHIMOTO?

CAT'S-EYE

BUT... RYO...

ELIMINATING THE SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM, KISHIMOTO, IS THE SIMPLEST WAY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. IT'S THE THINKING OF AN ASSASSIN.

MOST LIKELY...

AH-SHAN IS A PRO. SHE WON'T KILL HIM JUST YET...

YOU'RE GOING TO LET HER DO IT?

...

SHE'S ONLY 15 YEARS OLD. SHE'S DOING HER BEST.

AND, EVEN AS WE SPEAK, AH-SHAN MIGHT HAVE ALREADY...

SHE'S GOT A TIME LIMIT DUE TO THIS SATURDAY'S HOLIDAY... I'M GUESSING 3 DAYS.

USUALLY, SHE WOULD NEED AT LEAST A WEEK TO FIND THE IDEAL POSITION FOR A SHOT, BUT...

...?

I SHOWED THIS PICTURE TO A FEW PHYSIOGNOMISTS AND I HAD THEM POKE AROUND. IT TOOK THEM LESS THAN A DAY.

...

HERE. THIS IS WHAT YOU ASKED FOR.

ドサ

SFX: SLIP

OH, YOU FOUND IT? UMI, YOU ARE THE INFORMATION KING!

YOU WERE RIGHT.

*大勢の人間の中から 目的の人物を一目で見つけ出す「王剔り推量 人

NOTE: PHYSIOGNOMY - DIVINATION BASED ON FACIAL FEATURES

I THOUGHT SO... HE WAS LOOKING AFTER HER REAL CLOSE.

SFX: TAP TAP TAP

SFX: TAP TAP TAP

SO, WE'RE GOING?

IT'S TANYA.

HEY.

SFX: SLIP

DADDY! IT'S ME!

SFX: DING!

YEAH...

YOU'RE HAVING FUN IN KINDER-GARTEN?

HEH HEH HEH...

GROWN-UPS ALWAYS USE WORK AS AN EXCUSE!

I JUST HAVE SOME ANNOYING WORK TO FINISH. ONCE IT'S DONE, OKAY?

SAY, DADDY? WHEN WILL YOU BE HOME FOR GOOD?

SFX: HUMPH

SFX: TAP TAP

MISTER BEAR!

LOOK! HE'S HERE!

I WANT TO INTRODUCE MY BEST FRIEND MR BEAR!

HE ALWAYS GIVE ME CAKE AND CANDIES WITH MY BALLOONS!

TODAY, I DIDN'T COME WITH MY *MOMMY* THIS IS...

MY DADDY!

SFX: SLIP

TANYA, WHY DON'T YOU GO PLAY AT THE ARCADE?

THEN I HAVE TO THANK HIM FOR BEING SO NICE TO YOU.

AWW...

I SEE...

SFX: PLOP

OKAY, I PROMISE.

OKAY, BUT YOU PLAY NICE! WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS FOR YEARS!

YOU WANT TO PICK HER UP AND HOLD HER...

...

WHAT SHOULD I DO, MISTER BEAR? OR SHOULD I SAY...

TANYA IS OVER-JOYED JUST THINKING ABOUT DRAWING HER FATHER'S PICTURE ON DAD'S DAY AT SCHOOL.

YOUR DAUGHTER, I MEAN.

...

SFX: SHUF

SFX: SHUP

MISTER KATSUMI KURAHASHI?

HA HA HA!

HAH HAH!

I WAS THERE WHEN THAT TRAGEDY HAPPENED...

AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL OF THE R. COUNTY.

KISHIMOTO WAS IN CAHOOTS WITH A CROOKED LOCAL CONTRACTOR. HE TOLD HIM THE NATURE OF OTHER OFFERS TO WIN THE CONTRACT. THAT CONTRACTOR DID MOST OF THE WORK.

IT WAS BUILT BECAUSE OF THE JAPANESE HUMANITARIAN AID AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

...

BUT KISHIMOTO ALSO ORDERED HIM TO BOTCH THE JOB... THAT'S THE REAL REASON THE BUILDING COLLAPSED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CONSTRUCTION WAS DONE.

I DID IT! I DID...!

I WAS THERE FOR ALL OF IT! I WAS...

OTHERS... HANDICAPPED FOR LIFE... PARENTS... CRYING... SCREAMING...

I SAW... LOTS OF CHILDREN... LOSE THEIR FRIENDS...

bip

blip

boop

bleep

boop

IRINA... TOLD ME I WAS GOING TO BE A FATHER...

bip

?!...

THAT WAS WHY YOU TRIED TO EXPOSE IT TO THE MEDIA... IT FAILED, YOU GOT SCARED AND YOU RAN.

SFX: HUMM

I WAS ASHAMED... I FELT GUILTY... WHAT KIND OF FATHER WOULD I BE?

I BLINDLY FOLLOWED MY ORDERS AND THAT WAS THE RESULT!

J

YOU WANT TO KILL KISHIMOTO? YOU COULD GO BACK TO IRINA AND TANYA IF HE WAS DEAD.

BUT I DON'T WANT ANY MORE VICTIMS. I WANT HIM TO UNDERSTAND HOW GRAVE HIS SINS ARE.

I KNOW THAT KISHIMOTO IS STILL DOING THAT SHIT AND I WANT TO STOP HIM...

NO...

PERHAPS... BUT...

IF THIS CASE GOES PUBLIC, YOU'LL STILL BE AN ACCOMPLICE. YOU'LL BE CHARGED JUST THE SAME.

YOU DID YOUR RUNNING. IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO PLAY THE HERO. AT LEAST MY WAY YOU CAN STILL GO HOME TO YOUR FAMILY.

HARD NUT

WELL, WHATEVER. WE'LL NEED TO CLEAN THIS MESS UP BY SATURDAY, RIGHT?

HUH?

IT'S TRUE THAT UNTIL NOW I WAS SCARED... SO SCARED THAT I JUST KEPT RUNNING... BUT IF I CONTINUE... I'LL NEVER BE A WORTHY FATHER.

OKAY...

WE SHOULD FIND A LITTLE SOMETHING.

SFX: PLOP

SFX: STEP

DO YOU HAVE ANY EVIDENCE?

NOTHING.

JUST THE PLANS FOR THE SCHOOL WITH THE DISHONEST ORDERS HANDWRITTEN BY KISHIMOTO HIMSELF.

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT!

GROWN-UP TALKS TAKE TOO LONG! I'M HUNGRY!

DADDY!

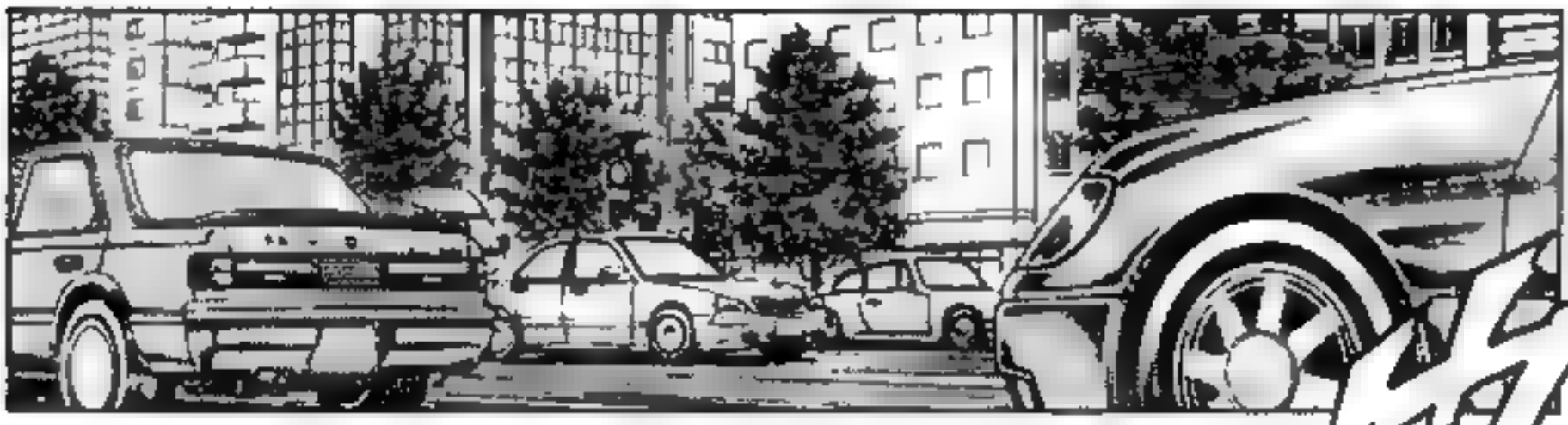
SEE YOU LATER, MR BEAR! BYE-BYE!

...

HMMM...

SFX: KRIK

Toy
Land



SFX: CAR ENGINE

SFX: CAR ENGINE

THIS IS THE PERFECT POSITION...

...

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Translator: Albator
Editor: Vicissitude
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Chapter 51: The Bear with Balloons

NOTHING TO REPORT...

zip

ONLY 15 MINUTES UNTIL THE TARGET PASSES THROUGH.

8:27 00

STW ALM

SURROUND-INGS AND WEATHER CLEAR. NO OBSTACLES IN THE PATH.

ESCAPE ROUTE SECURED...

SFX: CAR ENGINE

SFX: KLIK

...

HE'S EARLY? NOT HIS USUAL PATTERN...

SFX: TIK, TIK, TIK

SFX: KA-KLIK

NOT A PROBLEM.

SFX. RATTLE

SFX. SQUEEZE

SFX: SHA

SFX. SHA

SFX: KLK

SFX: TWIK!

SFX: ZOOM

SFX: CAR ENGINE

SFX: TWITCH TWITCH

...

WHY...?

WHY CAN'T I SHOOT...!?

!!

YOU HAVEN'T COME HOME IN THREE DAYS, YOU LITTLE DELINQUENT.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME!?

THAT'S WHY YOUR BODY REFUSED TO PULL THE TRIGGER.

IF YOU SHOOT, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO LIVE THAT FREE LIFE...

YOU'VE BEEN FREED FROM THE CRIMINAL WORLD AND YOU'VE FOUND THE STRENGTH TO LIVE.

YOUR HEART...

...

...

YOUR HEART REFUSED TO LET YOU SHOOT...

Slap!

!!

I HAVE A BODY...

THAT PREVENTS ME FROM DOING CITY HUNTER'S WORK...

CITY HUNTER'S WORK ISN'T JUST ABOUT SHOOTING PEOPLE.

THIS MORNING'S NEWSPAPER FROM TAIWAN...

台灣新報

日本政治家幕本忠 案件被發現!!

政治家等子殺人兇犯

THEY GIVE A FULL ACCOUNT OF ALL OF KISHIMOTO'S SCHEMES RIGHT ON THE FRONT PAGE, WITH EVIDENCE.

EDITOR'S NOTE: WE HAVE NO TRANSLATIONFOR THE NEWSPAPER. JUST PRETEND IT SAYS SOMETHING LIKE, "KISHIMOTO CAUSED CRUSHED KIDDIES!"

...

THIS NEWS WILL SHAKE EVEN JAPAN'S POLITICAL WORLD. TODAY IS GOING TO BE A VERY PANICKY ONE INDEED.

NOW IT'S NOT SO SECRET, ANYMORE.

OBVIOUSLY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO CONCEAL ANYTHING IF THE SCANDAL HAPPENS IN A FOREIGN LAND.

...

...

...

RYO ASKED MR CHEN FOR LI DA-REN TO THROW THE TAIWANESE PRESS.

DADDY?

SIGN: KINDERGARTEN

SO... NOW TANYA'S FATHER WON'T BE THREATENED ANYMORE, RIGHT?

...!

HELLO, TANYA!

HEE HEE!

I KNEW IT. YOU HAD THE WRONG TIME.

11:00? YOU SURE?

"HI?" ARE YOU KIDDING? WHY DID YOU TELL US TO COME SO EARLY? DADDY'S DAY DOESN'T START UNTIL 11:00!

WELL, IT'S BETTER THAN BEING LATE...

DADDY?

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, LET'S GO.

SFX: YANK

SFX: JERK

I'M NOT YOUR FATHER, TANYA.

SORRY, BUT I CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER.

WHAT NOW, DADDY?

OH, DADDY. STOP JOKING AROUND!

TANYA... YOU KNOW IT, DON'T YOU...?

...

I SAW THE PICTURE OF YOUR REAL DADDY THAT YOU KEEP PROTECTED IN THERE.

SFX: SHUF

SORRY, BUT I PEEKED IN YOUR BAG WHILE YOU WERE ASLEEP.

...

HIDE-AND-SEEK WAS ALL A LIE!!

...

IT'S BECAUSE ...

I KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING, EVEN THOUGH YOU CAME TO SEE ME.

SFX: SNIFFLES

I KNEW YOU AND MOMMY WERE FRIENDS SO I...

I JUST WANTED A DADDY!

MY DADDY IS PROBABLY DEAD!

MOMMY CRIED ALL THE TIME!

T-TANYA ...!

SO I...

...

IT'S NOT HIDE-AND-SEEK!!

DO YOU KNOW THE FIRST RULE OF HIDE-AND-SEEK?

THE MOUSE MUST ALWAYS LOOK OUT FOR THE CAT IF SHE DOESN'T WANT TO BE CAUGHT.

YOU KNOW... YOUR DADDY ISN'T DEAD.

SFX: PFF

...

AND THE BEST PLACE TO HIDE IS USUALLY RIGHT UNDER THE CAT'S NOSE.

BALLOONS?

BALLOONS!

YOU CAN'T GUESS? I'LL GIVE YOU A HINT...

SO, THINK. WHO'S BEEN CLOSE TO YOU SINCE THE BEGINNING?

...

...!

A BALLOON?

THAT'S...

THE BEAR WHO GIVES AWAY THE BALLOONS AT THE MALL?

...

HE-HE'S...!

D-DADDY?

...

SFX: TUG

S-STUPID ...

YOU'RE SO STUPID!

HELLO, TANYA.

YOU FINALLY FOUND ME.

YOU'RE STUPID AND BAD, DADDY!!

STUPID! STUPID! STUPID!

I'M SORRY, TANYA... I WANTED TO SEE YOU SO MUCH...

IRINA...

エッ

アシャン…？

...

RYO: AH-SHAN?

WHY AM I CRYING FOR THEM? IS... SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH ME...

I...

...

フ…

SFX: PFF

SFX: SNIFF

NO... THIS IS A GOOD THING, SHANIN. A VERY GOOD THING.

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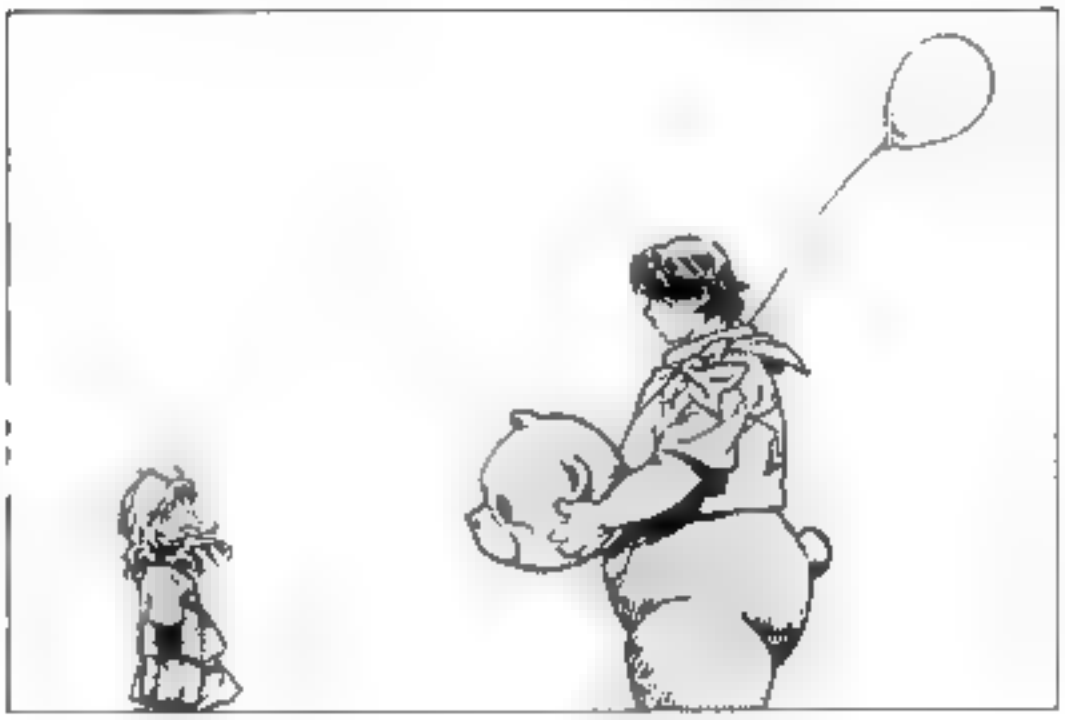

Chapter 52 - A Conversation with Kaori

SFX: GUNSHOTS

YEAH...

SFX: KLINK

BUT I DOUBT HE'LL DO ANY TIME.

THERE'S PLENTY OF EXTENUATING CIRUMSTANCES. SAEKA THINKS SO, TOO.

Cat's Eye Cafe - Level 2

AH, SO KURAHASHI THEN TURNED HIMSELF IN TO THE POLICE?

THEY NOW HAVE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

PERHAPS, BUT THINGS WILL CALM DOWN AND THEY'LL BE TOGETHER IN THE END.

...

UNFORTUNATELY, THAT MEANS TANYA WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE HER FATHER FOR A WHILE.

IF SHANIN HAD PULLED THE TRIGGER BACK THEN...

AND THE LITTLE GIRL FOUND HER TRUE SMILE, JUST AS SHANIN WISHED IT.

HE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GO BACK TO HIS FAMILY. THEN. EVEN IF HE COULD, HE WOULD HAVE JUST BEEN DEAD WEIGHT.

THIS WHOLE SITUATION WOULD HAVE STILL BEEN A SECRET. KURAHASHI WOULD NEVER HAVE EASED HIS CONSCIENCE.

SFX: GUNSHOTS

YOU MADE THE RIGHT DECISION.

...

BUT HER HEART IS STILL CHAOTIC.

SHE'S STILL SHOOTING ACCURATELY.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HER? DOES SHE NOT AGREE WITH YOUR WAY OF DOING THINGS?

HOW MANY HOURS DOES SHE HAVE TO SHOOT BEFORE SHE CALMS DOWN?

STILL...

I'M SURPRISED SHE DIDN'T PULL THE TRIGGER...

BAH! KIDS ARE SUCH A HASSLE.

...

APPARENTLY, THAT'S NOT IT...

IT'S JUST...

YOU THINK THAT'S IT?

HER UNCONSCIOUS MIND STOPPED HER.

...

OVERTRAINED PEOPLE LIKE HER BECOME OF ONE MIND WITH THEIR RIFLES WHEN SHOOTING.

YOU WOULD KNOW BEST...

TO STOP HERSELF FROM SHOOTING BY SHEER WILL WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR AN ASSASSIN.

SFX: GUNSHOTS

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME TO STOP YET?

SHAN-IIIIN...

I'M SURPRISED SHE WAS ABLE TO DO IT AT ALL.

COFFEE HOUSE

CAT'S E

WELL, I'VE HAD ENOUGH!

SFX: CREAK

SFX: TUG

...

SFX: GUNSHOTS

SFX: VROOM

SFX: SKYLIP

SFX: BOOM!

SFX: SPAK!

THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT...

SFX: FLUTTER

SFX: FLOP

YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN STILL SHOOT. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

I UNDERSTAND THAT IT CAN BE A SHOCK, A FORMER ASSASSIN NOT BEING ABLE TO JUST SHOOT THE TARGET.

...

I'M UNABLE TO BE A CITY HUNTER!!

YOU DON'T NEED TO KILL ANYM-

I'LL BE USELESS!

EVEN IF I DON'T NEED TO KILL, IF THINGS TURN UGLY ONE DAY... AND I'M UNABLE TO SHOOT...

...

AND IF I'M NOT ABLE TO DO IT...

I'M NOT WORTHY OF BEING A CITY HUNTER...

SO I'M GOING TO PRACTICE SO IT NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN!

...

SFX: SLAM!

I TOLD YOU ALREADY... CITY HUNTER'S WORK IS NOT JUST ABOUT MACHINE-GUNNING.

I CAN'T RESOLVE THINGS LIKE YOU CAN, RYO-PAPA!! ALL I KNOW IS GUNS AND KILLING PEOPLE!!

THOSE WERE LEFT BY KAORI WHEN SHE TRIED TO SERIOUSLY HIT A TARGET.

YEAH... THEY'RE WEIRD.

SFX: POINT

DO YOU SEE THOSE BULLET IMPACTS? HOW DO YOU THINK THEY WERE MADE?

BUT SHE MADE A GREAT CITY HUNTER!

AAAHH!! WAAAHHH! RY-OOOO!!

SHE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT, EITHER.

THAT ALONE TELLS YOU JUST HOW USELESS SHE WAS WITH A GUN.

SFX: GUNSHOTS

SHE ONLY KNEW HOW TO USE A HAMMER.

AND EVEN THEN, ONLY ON ME...

WHEN YOU SAW THAT FATHER HUG HIS DAUGHTER, YOU CRIED.

BUT...

...

YOUR HEART IS BIG ENOUGH TO SHED TEARS FOR OTHERS.

YOU HAVE THE SAME BIG HEART AS KAORI.

THAT MAKES YOU WORTHY OF BEING A CITY HUNTER.

SFX: PAT

...

SHANN: BUT..

YOU SHOULD TAKE A SHOWER. IT'LL DO YOU SOME GOOD.

HE-EY! AH-SHAN!

AH-SHAN ...?

Zzz...

YOU'RE TIRED. I CAN UNDERSTAND.

I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO UNDERSTAND RIGHT NOW...

SFX: PFF

SFX: HEARTBEAT

BUT IN TIME... TIME WILL HELP...

SFX: PAT

SLOWLY... NO NEED TO HURRY.

SFX: HEARTBEAT

RIGHT, KAORI?

SFX: HEARTBEATS

YES... YOU ARE RIGHT...

TALKING IN HER SLEEP?

NO... THAT VOICE... IT WAS...

IM... POSSIBLE!!

K-KAORI!?

SOMEDAY... SHE WILL UNDERSTAND...

ドク。。。

SFX: HEARTBEAT

SFX: PFF

TO STOP HERSELF FROM SHOOING BY SHEER WILL WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR AN ASSASSIN.

ドク。。

SFX: HEARTBEAT ->

IT WAS YOU! YOU STOPPED HER FROM SHOOTING!

KAORI!

BUT SHE IS A SMART CHILD... AND GENEROUS...

SFX: SMILE

...

SFX: HEARTBEAT

BUT FRAGILE AT TIMES...

THIS CHILD'S HEART IS MORE TENDER THAN YOU THINK, RYO...

TAKE CARE OF HER...

RYO...

TAKE CARE OF...

OUR PRECIOUS DAUGHTER.

KAORI...

...

SFX: HEARTBEATS

KAORI!

...

SFX: DOOR CLOSING

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IT'S HER BIRTHDAY!

DID YOU FORGET?

HM... SO WHAT?

HEY, RYO. IT DOESN'T HAPPEN TO BE THE 26TH, DOES IT?

...

...?

OOOH, YEAAAH...

...

Chapter 53 Saeko's Birthday

"IT WAS THE FIRST TIME MY BIRTHDAY AND MY DAY OFF WERE ON THE SAME DAY." THAT'S WHAT SAEKO TOLD ME LATER...

I GUESS I JUST COULDN'T FIND THE TIME... NO... WORK IS PROBABLY A LOUSY EXCUSE...

IT'S MY BIRTHDAY... FUNNY... I STOPPED CELEBRATING IT WHEN I TURNED THIRTY... I WONDER WHY... THAT IS...

IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE MY DAY OFF...

BUT I DON'T FEEL LIKE SPENDING THE DAY LIKE A LOST SOUL...

YES... THAT'S RIGHT...

SFX: SIGH

EVEN IF I'M A LITTLE OLD FOR PARTIES...

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I THREW A PARTY?

EXCUSE ME, MISS.

THOSE BAGS LOOK HEAVY. CAN I HELP YOU?

...

I DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO THINK IT BOTHERS ME... I'LL INVITE EVERYONE AND WE'LL HAVE FUN.

OWN... AGE...

SFX: SIGH

WHAT DO YOU THINK, BRAT? IF YOU WANT TO HIT ON GIRLS, FIND ONE YOUR...

IF SAEKO COMES HERE, YOU CAN'T TALK ABOUT HER BIRTHDAY!

COFFEE HOUSE CATSEYE

10:00 ~ 8:00

YOU GET IT!?

IT'S TRUE. SHE EXPLODED WHEN RYO TRIED TO JOKE ABOUT HER AGE THE OTHER DAY.

WE TRIED TO GET HER IN THE SPIRIT LAST YEAR. SHE GOT MAD AND SAID SHE HAD TOO MUCH WORK TO WASTE HER TIME LIKE THAT, BUT THAT WAS A LIE.

WHEN A WOMAN, LIKE SAEKO, REACHES A CERTAIN AGE, HER AGE BECOMES A... TOUCHY SUBJECT. IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE WE LAST CELEBRATED HER BIRTHDAY.

...WHY?

オホン!

SFX: AHEM

UNDER-STOOD!

WORDS LIKE 'SINGLE' AND 'WEDDING' ARE SIMILARLY PROHIBITED.

...

WELL...

NOT REALLY... BUT IF IT'S FOR SAEKO...

OH, NO, PLEASE DON'T. I CAN CARRY THIS JUST FINE!

RYO: EEP!

SFX: DOOR OPEN

GOT IT?

GOT IT!

HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON, SAEKO?

SFX: CLUNK

HOW CAN YOU BE SO NICE WHEN I'M JUST INSULTING YOU!?

YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT OTHERS' KINDNESS WITH ALL YOUR HEART!

OH, SUCH CHARACTER TO STAY SO STRONG, NO DOUBT...

I'M NEITHER DESPERATE NOR TIRED OF EVERYTHING! IS THAT CLEAR!?

ALRIGHT, YOU TWO. CALM DOWN.

REALLY, THIS WOMAN CAPTAIN...

NOTHING. NOTHING AT ALL!

ALTHOUGH... YOU'RE LOADED FOR BEAR! YOU COULD HAVE A PARTY WITH ALL THESE THINGS...

SO TIRED THAT I COULDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE OUR ENERGETIC YOUNG CAPTAIN!

I ONLY WANTED TO HELP! SHE WAS LOADED DOWN WITH THOSE BAGS AND FROM BEHIND, SHE LOOKED LIKE A DESPERATE WOMAN TIRED OF EVERYTHING.

ARE YOU CELECRATING SOMEONE'S BIRTHDAY?

I'M FREE TO DO WHAT I WANT...

SFX: DOOM!

IS IT YOUR HUSBAND'S BIRTHDAY, OR PERHAPS YOUR CHILD?

CH-CHEN!!

SFX: SWOOSH

CH-CHEN?

WHA..?

NO...

SFX: GRR

HUH?

N-NO, RYO, TODAY IS...

SAEKO IS A VERY BUSY WOMAN! SHE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TIME FOR SHOPPING, SO WHEN SHE DOES, SHE BUYS IN BULK!

I'M. SINGLE.

B-BUT, IT'S...

DID THEY...?

RIGHT, SAEKO!? WORK IS TOUGH!

YES, YOU REALLY DO WORK A LOT!

HUH?

THEY... THEY FORGOT...

ABOUT MY BIRTHDAY...

YES, WELL... IT'S MY DAY OFF.

YES, IT'S RATHER RARE TO SEE YOU THIS TIME OF DAY!

SINGLE...?

...

SFX: GLASS SHATTER

REALLY? THEN WHY ARE YOU COMING IN ON YOUR DAY OFF INSTEAD OF SOMEWHERE HAVING FUN?

SORRY!! SORRY!!

WHERE ON EARTH COULD I GO TO HAVE FUN BY MYSELF...?

SFX: BOP BOP BOP

...YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

ARE YOU REALLY ALONE?

?...

ALONE...

SFX: PAT

SFX: SHLICK

CHEN!!

I SEE... THAT MUST BE WHY YOU LOOKED SO DESPERATE FROM BEHIND!

HE'S GOT TO BE KIDDING...

SFX: SOBBING

SFX: SHUDDER

SFX: GULP!

WOULD YOU CONSIDER...

CHEN... REALLY, I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH...

HHH...

...

I TOO AM ALONE... I KNOW THE PAIN YOU NOW FEEL!

COMING TO LIVE WITH ME?

A JOKE...

SFX: GRR

YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

I'M NOT! I RETIRED, WHICH IS GOOD, BUT I'VE BEEN A LITTLE DEPRESSED LATELY. SINCE BOTH OF US ARE LIKE THIS, I THOUGHT-

SFX: SLAM!

I AM NOT DEPRESSED!

HMM...

THIS IS GETTING SURREAL...

PRECISELY! I LIKE A YOUNG WOMAN WITH CHARACTER!

STOP MOCKING ME! JUST BEFORE, YOU MADE FUN OF ME FOR HAVING A BAD TEMPER!

YOU CAN'T BE ANY OLDER THAN THIRTY, CORRECT?

SFX: AAAAAHH!!

IN MY EYES, YOU ARE. MORE SO THAN YOU THINK.

OH, I'M NOT THAT YOUNG... *HOW DID HE FORCE ME TO SAY THIS?)*

FORTY YEARS OLD...

ALMOST...

...

WHAT!? I'M BEING SERIOUS!

OH, COME ON NOW MR CHEN! WHAT A NASTY JOKER YOU ARE!

I AM...

SFX: SHLICK

SFX: TSK TSK

JAPANESE PEOPLE LOOK YOUNGER THAN THEY REALLY ARE. I PREFER 35-YEAR OLDS OR YOUNGER. ESPECIALLY IF YOU WANT KIDS.

R-REALLY? NO KIDDING!?

WELL, IT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD BUT I SHOULD BE GETTING BACK TO MY RESTERAUNT.

SFX: TAP

SFX: VUOMM

...! FIGHTING AURA...

ANYWAY...

SFX: CRIK CRAK

I AM AN *ALMOST-* FORTY YEAR OLD WOMAN!

OUMP!

SFX: WHUMP

ANYWAY, I...

SFX: BAG CRINKLING

BUT I REFUSE TO HAVE AN OLD GOAT LIKE THIS MAKING FUN OF ME!

SFX: RRRIP!

A WOMAN WHOSE BIRTHDAY EVERYONE FORGOT, AND FOR WHOM THEY WOULDN'T CELEBRATE EVEN IF THEY REMEMBERED!

SFX: BAGS CRINKLING

EEK!

SFX: STEP STEP

SFX: SLAM!

SA-
SAEKO?

SFX: WIPE

SFX: GRAB

SFX: DING DING

...

SHE WANTED US TO CELEBRATE HER BIRTHDAY...

SHE BOUGHT ALL THIS TO CELEBRATE WITH US...?

...

I BEG YOUR PARDON?

HEY, BOSS...

BAR Kyrie

YOU KNOW WHAT DAY IT IS TODAY?

BAR Kyrie

酒屋

UH, SURE...

FORGET IT... NOBODY REMEMBERED AT ALL...

SFX: LIFT

SFX: PFF

SAEKO...

WELL, HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

CHEERS, SAEKO.

SFX: KLINK

WE ALL KNEW, YOU KNOW. TODAY IS...

YEAH, ACUTALLY. THE SHINJUKU YAKUZA. THEY THOUGHT IF WE LET YOU GO HOME LIKE THAT, YOU MIGHT QUIT YOUR JOB AND END UP OPENING A LALINDROMAT.

STUPID...

SFX: SITTING DOWN

NO, LET ME GUESS. SOMEONE WROTE YOU AN 'XYZ' MESSAGE? THEY TOLD YOU THERE WAS A SAD, DESPERATE WOMAN YOU NEED TO CHEER UP?

WHAT...

...

STUPID... THE WHOLE LOT OF YOU.

WE WERE JUST SO SURE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY. WE MESSED UP, SAEKO. SORRY.

IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO READ WHAT SOMONE HAS IN THEIR HEART... IT TAKES A LOT OF EFFORT TO MANAGE...

AT LEAST I UNDERSTAND THAT MUCH...

WHY SO MUCH FUSS OVER A SIMPLE BIRTHDAY? I DON'T GET IT, REALLY...

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QC: Eldo
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Chapter 54 Meeting in a Dream

PAPA?

RYO-PAPA, WHERE ARE YOU?

SFX: WIND

PAPA...

SFX: WIND

MA...

...

MAMA!!

SFX: GASP!

...

A DREAM?

...

THAT DREAM...

AGAIN...

IT'S VERY STRANGE.

BUT I STILL HAVE ALL MY RECENT MEMORIES.

I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M A CHILD IN THIS DREAM. I MUST BE FIVE YEARS OLD...

...

YOU'RE NOT THERE ANYMORE, RYO-PAPA. AND I WANDER IN TOWN ALONE.

...OKAY.

BAH, I DOUBT IT'S ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

I'LL PICK YOU UP AND TAKE YOU HOME WHEN YOU'RE DONE, SO WAIT FOR ME.

...

3F 花園診療所

JUST TALK TO THE DOC ABOUT IT DURING YOUR CHECKUP.

ZZZ...
SNRK

TANYA'S CASE PROBABLY HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT.

FIVE YEARS OLD...

SFX: RATTLE

WHO-ZAT?

HUH...?

Knock Knock

I'M UP!

SFX: BUOM!

'ZAT YOU, KAORI?

KAORI?

KAORI...

USED TO COME HERE OFTEN?

...

OH...? OH, SHANIN! I'M SORRY, I MUST HAVE BEEN DOZING.

YOU DIDN'T KNOW? KAORI USED TO WORK HERE AS AN APPRENTICE NURSE.

THE WAY YOU KNOCKED AND CAME IN, IT WAS JUST LIKE KAORI SO FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT...

SHE MUST HAVE BEEN ABOUT YOUR AGE WHEN SHE STARTED.

SHE STARTED RIGHT AFTER SHE BEGAN NURSING SCHOOL (IT'S NOT *REALLY LEGAL, NORMALLY...*).

...

IT'S... PROBABLY THE REASON...

...

YOU KNOW... BEFORE, I USED TO HATE THE SMELL OF HOSPITALS...

BUT NOW I LIKE IT... I FEEL STRANGELY NOSTALGIC BECAUSE OF IT.

REALLY... KAORI USED TO WORK HERE...

SFX: PFF

ALRIGHT... HAVE YOU FELT ANY UNUSUAL PAINS LATELY, SHANIN?

SFX: DRIP

Ptik

Plok

Plok

HUNH...

UHN...

NG...

UGH...

SFX: DRIP

HUH?

SHE WAS WAITING FOR YOU SO LONG, SHE FELL ASLEEP.

HELLO, SHANIN! I'M HERE TO PICK YOU UP!

SFX: DOOR OPENING

SHHHH!!

I SAID SHHHH!!

WELL, I HAD SOME EXTRA TIME, SO I WENT TO PACHINKO AND ENDED UP WINNING ALL THIS STUFF!

YEAH, APPARENTLY.

SHE TOLD ME SHE'S BEEN HAVING THE SAME DREAM LATELY...

I THINK SHE NEEDS THE REST.

...

HUFF...

UHN...

SFX: SCRAPE

HO-

HUFF...

SFX: THUD

HUFF...

HUFF...

HUH...?

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, RYO-PAPA!? HANG ON!

HE'S SO YOUNG...

RYO-PAPA!?

YOUR HAND!

MOVE...

SFX: TUG TUG

IT'S NOT LIKE ME TO MAKE SUCH A MISTAKE...

YOU'RE SHOT!? LET ME SEE!

IT'S JUST BAD LUCK...

NO!!

THE LAST PLACE I'LL SEE? IT'S PROBABLY THE BEST... FOR A GUY LIKE ME...

IS THIS THE PLACE?

...

WE'LL GET TO THE HOSPITAL!

SFX: TUG TUG

AAH!

SFX: BUMP

SFX: RIP!

HUFF...

HUFF...

HELP!!

MY DADDY'S HURT BAD! HE NEEDS HELP OR HE'LL DIE!!

WE HAVE TO TAKE HIM TO THE HOSPITAL! CALL AN AMBULANCE!

SFX: SWISH

PLEASE! I'M BEGGING YOU!!

SFX: FWOOP

WE HAVE TO TAKE HIM TO THE HOSPITAL! PLEASE...! MY DADDY...!

MY DADDY'S GOING TO DIE!

SFX: GRAB

HELP HIM!!

SFX: DROP

...

?!

HA... HA...

I... I FINALLY CAUGHT SOMEONE!

SFX: GRAB

A BULLET WOUND...

...

OH? SO... YOU'RE STILL CONSCIOUS.

A STRAY DOG...

I KNOW THAT ALREADY! WE HAVE TO GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL!

OF COURSE NOT! HELP HIM!!

THEN ANSWER ME THIS WHILE YOU STILL CAN: DO YOU WANT TO DIE HERE LIKE A STRAY DOG?

SFX: GROAN...

HELL...!

G-GO... TO...

HII H...

SFX: UGH...

DADDY!!

SFX: GROAN

PLEASE! I'M BEGGING YOU! SAVE MY DA-

SFX: BUOM!

KA-KAORI!?

A DREAM...?

NO!...COULD THIS BE A MEMORY...?

KAORI'S MEMORY OF HER'S AND RYO-PAPA'S FIRST MEETING TOGETHER...?

SHE'S MUCH YOUNGER, BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT...

SHE IS KAORI!

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Chapter 55
The Makimura Siblings

SFX: HEARTBEAT

WHAT HAPPENED? SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS HAVING A NIGHTMARE...

WELL, HER PULSE HAS SLOWED DOWN, BUT...

SFX: DEEP BREATH

SFX: HEARTBEAT

...

SFX: HEARTBEAT

KAORI...

KA...

AH-SHAN?

...

MAYBE WE SHOULD WAKE HER UP?

...

SHE'S DREAMING... OF KAORI?

SFX: HEARTBEAT

KAORI?

KAORI...

SFX: HEARTBEATS

Tok

Tok
Tok
Tok

SFX: HEARTBEATS

Tok
Tok

Tok
Tok

SFX: BUBBLING POT ->

Tok
Tok

Tok
Tok

Tok
Tok
Tok

...

SUCH A NICE WARMTH...

SFX: HUG

...

SFX: CHOPPING

SFX: CHOPPING

IT FEELS SO GOOD HERE...

KAORI...

BRO.

HELLO...

WOULD IT REALLY BE TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR YOU TO CALL ME 'BIG BROTHER' OR SOMETHING?

KAORI...

WHO'S HE...?

SFX: SLUMP

AH... HELLO...

SFX: GROAN

A GIRL LIKE YOU USING THE WORD 'BRO.' IT'S NOT VERY CLASSY.

SFX: FWAP

KAORI! HUOP!

I ONLY MADE YOU BREAKFAST, SO AFTER THIS, YOU'LL HAVE TO MANAGE ON YOUR OWN.

ANYWAY, I FIND THE WAY YOU TALK TOO-

NOBODY TOLD ME ABOUT IT...

ALRIGHT, I'M GOING!

HER BROTHER? KAORI HAD A BROTHER...

SFX: FLOP

HERE'S YOUR BREAK-FAST!

SORRY, I DON'T HAVE THE TIME!

KAORI!

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE A NURSE?

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS SCHOOL, KAORI?

I CAN PAY FOR BOTH HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

WHAT GOT INTO YOU? YOU ARE *SO* NOT A MORNING PERSON.

KNOW WHY? BECAUSE EVER SINCE I WAS A KID, I NEVER STOPPED LOOKING AFTER YOU, BRO.

TO BE A NURSE AND GIVE FIRST AID!

DO YOU KNOW MY SPECIALITY?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHOOSE A CAREER SO EARLY...

LATER!

...

I KNOW YOU'RE A COP, BUT YOU GET HURT WAY TOO OFTEN, BRO. BESIDES, IT'S THE ONLY THING I WANT TO DO.

SO, IN OTHER WORDS... IT'S MY FAULT...

...!

RYO-PAPA!

"Boing"

...?

WHAT'S THAT?

HEY, KAORI...

SFX: FLAP!

HIS DRIVER'S LICENSE? FAKE! CREDIT CARDS? FAKE! EVERYTHING HE HAS IS FAKE!

HUH?

...?

WHO IS THAT MAN?

BRO...?

THE SAME GOES FOR HIS PASSPORT! EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM IS FAKE!

...

SFX: GROAN

I DON'T EVEN THINK 'RYO SAEBA' IS HIS REAL NAME!

I CAN'T FIND A SINGLE DOCUMENT TO IDENTIFY HIM!

...

HE'S NOTHING LIKE THE YAKUZA AROUND HERE!

I'M WARNING YOU, DOC. THAT MAN'S A DANGER!

OUT OF THE QUESTION!

YOU MUST SURRENDER HIM TO US IMMEDIATELY!

...

SFX: SCRATCH SCRATCH

OUR PATIENT AND NOT YOUR CONCERN!

BUT, KAORI, THAT MAN IS-

HE'S BEEN BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH FOR TWO DAYS! WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE'LL SURVIVE OR NOT!

HE'S NOT EVEN CONSCIOUS! HANDING HIM OVER TO THE POLICE NOW IS IMPOSSIBLE.

KAO-

SFX: DOOR OPENING

...

WITH A TEMPER LIKE THAT, SHE'LL NEVER GET A MAN...

-RI...

SFX: SLAM!

TO GET OUT IN IT AND NOT STAY HERE HER WHOLE LIFE...

I WANT HER TO SEE THE OUTSIDE WORLD...

HER WORLD IS TOO NARROW...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HER CHOOSE TO WORK IN SUCH A PLACE, SURROUNDED BY YAKUZA, EVEN BEFORE GETTING HER NURSING DEGREE.

I JUST HOPE SHE DOESN'T END UP WORKING IN SUCH A PLACE *AD VITAM ETERNAM*...

ALTHOUGH... SHE CHOSE HER PATH WITHOUT EVEN CONSULTING ME...

SFX: WATER SPLASHING

AD VITAM ETERNAM: 'FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE'
THANKS, LATIN!

N-NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN 'SUCH A PLACE?'

SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO PICK A JOB THIS HARD...

SHE'S ONLY SEVENTEEN... SINCE IT'S ALWAYS JUST BEEN THE TWO OF US, SHE NEVER REALLY HAD MUCH FREEDOM...

...

SFX: SCRUBBING

...!?

DON'T YOU THINK SHE'S DOING THIS FOR YOU?

MAKIMURA...

...

YOU'RE THE ONLY FAMILY SHE HAS.

I KNOW YOU'RE A COP, BUT YOU GET HURT WAY TOO OFTEN, BRO.

EVER SINCE I WAS A KID, I NEVER STOPPED LOOKING AFTER YOU, BRO.

SO MAYBE THE REASON SHE WANTS TO BE A NURSE IS SO SHE CAN PROTECT YOU IN HER OWN WAY.

SFX: PAT

...

YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON THAT SHE ABSOLUTELY CANNOT LOSE.

...

SO IT'S NOT *BECAUSE* OF ME....

IT'S *FOR* ME...!

SO THIS NURSE... IS A COP'S SISTER... EH...?

7...

SFX: SNORING

KAORI...

HM?

GOING HOME ALREADY, BRO?

SFX: CLICK

...

SFX: DOOR OPENING

YOU'RE REALLY GETTING A LOT BETTER.

IT WAS DELICIOUS...

BREAK-FAST, I MEAN...

...

OOO-KAY. WEIRDING ME OUT, HERE...

SFX: DOOR CLOSING

...

ALL THIS... FOR ME...

STUPID...

SFX: SHARP INHALE

RYO-PAPA! YOU'RE AWAKE!?

...

SFX: HNN...

...!?

SFX: HNN...

ARE YOU STILL HERE? RYO-PAPA IS AWAKE!

KAORI?

!!

SFX: KRSSH

SFX: HNN!

SFX: SHINK

RYO... PAPA...?

MURDEROUS AURA!?

HE DOESN'T TRUST ANYBODY... HE CAN'T TRUST ANYBODY... EVERYONE AROUND HIM IS AN ENEMY!

HE'S JUST LIKE ME...JUST LIKE ME WHEN I ARRIVED IN SHINJUKU...

JUST LIKE I THOUGHT AT FIRST...

RYO-PAPA WANTS TO KILL KAORI?!

NO WAY...

To Be Continued...

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